

Message Text

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SUBJECT: TURKISH AID CUTOFF: NOON PRESS BRIEFING OF
DECEMBER 17

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT Q'S AND A'S NOON PRESS BRIEFING
DECEMBER 17, 1974, CONCERNING CUTOFF DATE OF MILITARY
AID TO TURKEY AND STATUS OF CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS:

QUOTE: Q: THE HOUSE-SENATE CONFEREES HAVE REACHED
AGREEMENT ON THE AID BILL, INCLUDING AN EXTENSION OF THE
CUTOFF TO TURKEY TILL FEBRUARY 5. DID THE SECRETARY HAVE
ANY COMMENT ON THIS?

A: WELL, ON THE QUESTION OF THE TURKISH AID, LET ME GIVE
YOU THIS VERY BRIEF COMMENT: THAT LAST EVENING, AS MOST OF
YOU KNOW, THE SECRETARY MET WITH SPEAKER ALBERT AND OTHER
CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS IN THE SPEAKER'S OFFICE, AND PROBLEMS
IN THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT WERE DISCUSSED, INCLUDING
ASSISTANCE TO TURKEY. AND A FURTHER MEETING WITH
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CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS WAS HELD AT BREAKFAST THIS MORNING,

HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT.

Q: WHICH LEADERS?

A: IT WAS, ROUGHLY, THE SAME GROUP AS LAST NIGHT.

Q: HOUSE?

A: HOUSE, YES.

AND, AS WE ALL KNOW, THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE IS MEETING TO TRY AND WORK OUT A SOLUTION; AND I HAVE SEEN ONE OR TWO TICKERS, JUST BEFORE I CAME DOWN, ON THIS SUBJECT YOU REFERRED TO. BUT AS IS WELL KNOWN, THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY FAVOR A CONTINUATION OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY AND ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE CONGRESS WILL ACT ACCORDINGLY.

Q: DO YOU HAVE THE NAMES -- OR, AT LEAST, THE NUMBER OF HOW MANY PEOPLE WHO WERE THERE -- WITH ALBERT AS THE HEAD OF THIS?

A: I DO NOT. THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE WAS THE ONE THAT ASKED CERTAIN CONGRESSMAN TO JOIN HIM IN THE SPEAKER'S OFFICE, SO I'D RATHER YOU GET IT FROM UP THERE.

Q: IT WAS BIPARTISAN, AT LEAST?

A: I WOULD ASSUME IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BIPARTISAN, YES.

Q: WAS IT THE SECRETARY'S REQUEST THAT THE MEETING YESTERDAY TOOK PLACE?

A: I DO NOT KNOW. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THE SECRETARY REQUESTED, OR I THINK IT WAS PROBABLY MUTUALLY AGREED THAT IT WOULD BE A VERY GOOD IDEA WHEN THE SECRETARY GOT BACK FROM HIS RECENT TRIP TO HAVE A DISCUSSION ON THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT BECAUSE HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO DO THAT ON THE HOUSE SIDE -- AS YOU RECALL -- BEFORE HE LEFT. HE HAD HAD A SCHEDULED MEETING WITH THE HOUSE

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FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, YOU ALL REMEMBER, AND THAT HAD TO BE POSTPONED OR CANCELLED. SO THIS WAS A NATURAL FOLLOW-UP TO THAT.

Q: DOES THIS COMPROMISE MEAN THAT THERE HAS BEEN SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON CYPRUS?

A: I DON'T WANT TO GET INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF IT BEYOND

WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID IN BRUSSELS AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, WHERE HE THOUGHT PROGRESS WAS POSSIBLE.

THAT IS THE WAY THAT WE WILL LEAVE IT RIGHT NOW. UNQUOTE
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